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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(August 22 - September 21, 1981)

October 1981

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analysts: Gerald Cady
John Stepanchuk

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 August - 21 September 1981)*

Africa General

Health Education Conference

(Text) An All-African Conference dedicated to the problems surrounding the preparation of qualified personnel in the health care fields, opened in Lagos, Nigeria. The conference was attended by 500 participants from 28 African nations. (4 Sep 81, p. 1)

Indian Ocean

Youth Conference Condemns US

(Excerpt) At a conference of youth and students, held in the Indian city of Trivandrum that was attended by organizations from more than 20 countries, American imperialist aggression in the Indian Ocean was condemned. (3 Sep 81, p. 1)

Organization of African Unity

Saharan Ceasefire Plan

(Summary) A high-level committee of specialists of the Organization of African Unity ended their sessions in Nairobi aimed at drafting a ceasefire and referendum plan to halt the fighting in the Western Sahara. (27 Aug 81, p. 4)

Soviet Interests in Africa

Support for Angola

(Excerpt) The Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace has voiced angry indignation at the new instances of The South African racists' expanding aggression against sovereign Angola. (3 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #178, 15 Sep 81, p. J3)

Soviet Solidarity Committee

(Excerpt) The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa sent a telegram to J. dos Santos, President of Angola, expressing the Soviet peoples' deep concern and indignation over the brutal attack on the southern provinces of Angola by racist South African troops. (4 Sep 81, p. 4)

*The edition for 21 September not received.

Angola

South African Attack Continues

(Excerpt) The Defense Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola announced that South African aviation forces continued to bomb populated areas in Angola up to 300 kilometers north of the Namibian border. (26 Aug 81, p. 5)

South African Military Action

[Pravda extensively covered the Republic of South Africa's military incursion into the southern provinces of Angola. The coverage, though, tended to be rehashes of news service reports from other nations or were repetitive propaganda themes. Among Pravda's claims: the United States and other Western nations massively aided South Africa's attack on the basis of attempting to maintain control of southern Africa's natural resources and as a first step to regain control of all of black Africa; South Africa willingly cooperated so that it could continue to unlawfully occupy Namibia; South Africa's military forces, joined by units of the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and gangs of Western mercenaries, used napalm in the process of slaughtering all inhabitants, including a number of Soviet civilians, that they encountered in Angola's southern provinces with the purpose of annexing these territories. (27 Aug, p. 5, 28 Aug, p. 5, 29 Aug, p. 5, 30 Aug, p. 5, 31 Aug, p. 5, 1 Sep, p. 5, 2 Sep, p. 5, 3 Sep, p. 5, 5 Sep, p. 5, 6 Sep, p. 5, 7 Sep, p. 5, 10 Sep, p. 5, 12 Sep, p. 1 and p. 5, 13 Sep, p. 5, 15 Sep, p. 5, 18 Sep, p. 5, 20 Sep, p. 4).]

South African Attack

(Excerpts) The overt intervention by the racist Republic of South Africa against Angola has created an explosive situation in southern Africa. The escalation of the South African armed incursions against Angola has been possible only thanks to present US administration's direct incitement of the racist to this adventurist move. (28 Aug 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #170, 2 Sep 81, p. J1)

Protest Against US Inspired Attack

(Summary) Tens of thousands of Angola's working people rallied in a demonstration held to protest South African aggression that is sanctioned by American imperialism. (9 Sep 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #178, 15 Sep 81, pp. J2-3)

Role of Cubans and Soviet Advisors

(Summary) Jose dos Santos, Chairman of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola (MPLA)--Labor Party and President of Angola, stated at a press conference that the number of Cuban internationalists will gradually fall as the combat capability of the Angolan Army grows. And that the Soviet specialists working in Angola were there in accordance with the friendship treaty that exists between Angola and the USSR. (11 Sep 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #179, 16 Sep 81, p. J1)

Tribute to Agostino Neto

(Text) Today, the People's Republic of Angola is observing a holiday, the day of a national hero and founder of the state. This date was established by a decision of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)--Labor Party as a tribute to the memory of the glorious son of the Angolan people, the first president of the republic, and a great friend of the Soviet people, Agostino Neto, whose name is indelibly linked with the victory of the liberation struggle and the creation of the People's Republic of Angola.

In Luanda and other cities of the republic, exhibits on the life and activity of the leader of the Angolan revolution have been opened. (18 Sep 81, p. 4)

Benin

Soviet Delegation Arrives

(Excerpt) A Soviet Communist Party delegation led by V. N. Golubev arrived in Benin on 28 August for the purpose of improving relations with the National Revolutionary Party of Benin. (29 Aug 81, p.4)

Soviet-Beninese Relations

(Excerpt) The friendly relations between the USSR and Benin are growing stronger and developing. The newest evidence of this was provided by the Soviet Communist Party delegation's visit to Benin, declared B. Sindzhalum, member of the Central Committee of the National Revolutionary Party of Benin. (4 Sep 81, p. 4)

CPSU Delegation

(Excerpt) A Soviet Communist Party delegation headed by V. N. Golubev, member of the Central Auditing Commission and Chief Editor of an industrial newspaper, has returned to Moscow from Benin. (8 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #179, 16 Sep 81, p. J4)

Central African Republic

Military Coup

(Excerpt) According to news reports out of Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, the civilian government led by D. Dacko has been deposed by a military group headed by A. Kolingba. (2 Sep 81, p. 5)

Coup Inspired by West

(Excerpts) A. Kolingba, Chief of the General Staff, will head the Military Committee of National Redemption that took state power away from President Dacko and his government. A French newspaper, meanwhile, has hinted that Washington may have been behind the coup and might be the first stage of President Reagan's plan to substitute American involvement in parts of Africa normally reserved for France. (3 Sep 81, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Joint Communique with Libya

(Excerpt) At the end of M. Qadhafi's visit to Ethiopia, the leader of the Libyan revolution and his hosts swore loyalty to the cause against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, and racism and for the strengthening of all peaceful and democratic forces. (25 Aug 81, p. 5)

Aden Communique

(Excerpt) At the conclusion of the summit meeting held in Aden of the leaders of South Yemen, Libya, and Ethiopia, a communique was issued in which it was emphasized that fraternal relations between the three countries would be strengthened in various fields. (30 Aug 81, p. 4)

Solidarity with Namibia

(Excerpt) A mass meeting of solidarity with the Namibian people and their struggle for freedom and independence was held in Ethiopia's capital. (31 Aug 81, p. 1)

Trade Union Status

(Text) The All-Ethiopia Trade Union is composed of 235,000 members from 9 union associations with a total of nearly 2,000 workers' committees in enterprises, state firms, and institutions. (1 Sep 81, p. 1)

Speech to Nonaligned Movement

(Excerpt) In an address to the representatives of the Nonaligned Movement, Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, declared that the forces of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and racism cannot halt the forward advance of history characterized by progressive victories for the peoples of all lands. (4 Sep 81, p. 4)

Tripartite Treaty Denied

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian Government categorically denied the Egyptian assertion that it signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Libya and South Yemen. (4 Sep 81, p. 4)

Aid to Eritrea

(Excerpt) More than two million birr [1 birr=\$2.05] was sent to the province of Eritrea by the central government to alleviate the suffering of the inhabitants caused by natural disasters and military action taken by separatists. (6 Sep 81, p. 1)

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Socialist Solidarity

(Excerpt) According to a newspaper published in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia sees as one of its tasks the strengthening of its unity and cohesion with the socialist countries and all the international progressive forces. In accordance with the principles of proletarian internationalism, Ethiopia is prepared to take its place in the struggle with international imperialism and reaction. (8 Sep 81, p. 4)

Ethiopian Celebration

(Excerpt) The Soviet people have always given all-round support to the cause of the Ethiopian revolution, which has proclaimed a course of building a socialist society. This was stated in Moscow on 9 September at a meeting of representatives of the public devoted to the seventh anniversary of the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia. (10 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #180, 17 Sep 81, p. J2)

Husak Visit

(Summary) Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, presented G. Husak, General Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party and President of the nation, Ethiopia's highest honor -- "The Star of Honor of Socialist Ethiopia." (12 Sep 81, p. 4)

Brezhnev Sends Greetings

(Summary) President Brezhnev and Prime Minister Tikhonov sent a message to Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, on behalf of the Soviet Communist Party and people extending cordial congratulations to the Ethiopian people on the occasion of socialist Ethiopia's national holiday--Revolution Day. (12 Sep 81, p. 1, and translated in toto by Soviet Union Daily Report #181, 18 Sep 81, p. J3)

Reception in Moscow

(Summary) The Ethiopian Ambassador to the USSR held a reception on 11 September marking Revolution Day that was attended by P. G. Gilashvili, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other officials. (12 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #181, 18 Sep 81, p. J3)

Anniversary of Revolution

(Summary) The Ethiopian people celebrated the seventh anniversary of their national-democratic revolution with mass meetings and demonstrations. (13 Sep 81, p. 1)

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Czechoslovakian-Ethiopian Friendship Treaty Signed

(Text) General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party G. Husak made an official friendly visit to Ethiopia. A Friendship and Cooperation Treaty and other documents were signed in Addis Ababa. They are directed at broadening and strengthening ties between Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia. (14 Sep 81, p. 4)

Road System Increases in Size

(Text) The size of the road system has doubled since the time of the revolution. When the feudal-monarchic regime was deposed in 1974 there were only 6,640 kilometers of transport roadways. (16 Sep 81, p. 1)

State Farms

(Text) In the western Ethiopia province of Walaga, an agro-industrial complex consisting of seven state farms is being built. Corn, sorghum, soy beans, peanuts, and pepper are grown on its fields. The construction of a mill, a feed producing factory, a livestock center, and a tannery are also planned. A medical center has already been built for the farm workers, and a school has been opened for their children. (19 Sep 81, p. 1)

Gambia

New Soviet Ambassador

(Summary) The USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Yurig I. Belshiy to the combined posts of Soviet Ambassador to the Republics of Senegal and Gambia. (5 Sep 81, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #179, 16 Sep 81, p. J4)

Liberia

Credential Ceremony

(Excerpt) F. T. Pettikua, the Liberian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the USSR, presented his credentials on 11 September at a ceremony in the Kremlin. (12 Sep 81, p. 4)

Madagascar

Supreme Soviet Delegation

(Excerpt) A USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation headed by K. Khalilov, Deputy Chairman of that body, left Moscow on 2 September for an official visit to Madagascar. (3 Sep 81, p. 4)

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Ratsiraka Visits Libya

(Text) President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka made an official visit to Libya. The two countries signed a program for cooperation in the area of economics, trade, and exchange of specialists. A decision was made to create a number of joint Libyan-Malagasy companies. (5 Sep 81, p. 1)

Indian-Malagasy Communique

(Excerpt) At the conclusion of D. Ratsiraka's official visit to India, a joint communique was issued that expressed serious concern over the United States' expanded use of Diego Garcia for military purposes and called on the members of the United Nations to enact the proposal that would create a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. (12 Sep 81, p. 1)

Vacation by Ratsiraka

(Excerpt) D. Ratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and General Secretary of the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution Party, arrived in the Soviet Union on 11 September for a short vacation. (12 Sep 81, p. 4)

Soviet Delegation Returns

(Summary) The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by K. Khalilov, Deputy Chairman of that body which was in Madagascar on an official visit, returned to Moscow on 11 September. (12 Sep 81, p. 4)

Ratsiraka Visit to the USSR

(Text) On 17 September, a talk was held at the Kremlin between USSR Politburo Member and Chairman of the Council of Ministers N. A. Tikhonov and President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar (DRM) and General Secretary of the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution Party, Didier Ratsiraka, who is in the Soviet Union for a brief rest.

The mutual conviction was expressed that the further successful development of multilateral ties between the USSR and the DRM, on the basis of agreements arrived at during negotiations between L. I. Brezhnev and D. Ratsiraka when the latter visited the Soviet Union in 1978, reflect the interests of the peoples of both countries and serve the cause of strengthening peace and security in Africa and the whole world.

N. A. Tikhonov and D. Ratsiraka condemned the brazen aggression by the South African racists against the People's Republic of Angola and expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Angolan people to defend their revolutionary gains, and with SWAPO's struggle to liberate its national territory from South African occupation.

They noted the imperative need to activate the efforts of all peaceloving forces to reduce international tension and remove the threat of war. In this connection, the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace was stressed.

The exchange of opinions on international problems and issues of developing Soviet-Malagasy relations took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. (18 Sep 81, p. 1)

Mozambique

Maternity Medical Course

(Except) The first training program for the preparation of medical workers in the field of mother and child health care began in the capital of Mozambique. (25 Aug 81, p. 1)

Visit to Bulgaria

(Except) T. Zhikov, General Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, was on hand to greet S. Machel, Chairman of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), on his arrival to Bulgaria. (1 Sep 81, p. 4)

USSR-Mozambique Trade Agreement

(Text) A cooperation agreement between the USSR Chamber of Commerce and that of the People's Republic of Mozambique was signed in Maputo. It oversees the strengthening and broadening of trade, scientific, technical, and other business ties and contacts between the foreign trade organizations of both countries. (5 Sep 81, p. 5)

Soviet Trade Pavilion in Maputo

(Picture Caption) The governments of the Socialist commonwealth are widely represented at the traditional international trade exhibit. (17 Sep 81, p. 4)

Namibia

Namibia Day

(Excerpt) The progressive international elements supporting the just struggle by the Namibian people against the unlawful occupation of their country by the racist South African regime have declared 26 August as Namibia Day. (26 Aug 81, p. 5)

UN Namibia Debate

(Excerpt) O.A. Troyanovskiy, the USSR's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, declared in a speech regarding Namibia that, "the rulers of Pretoria are plainly gambling on keeping control of Namibia by force, and that this increased aggressiveness is the result of a special form of alliance between the South African racists and the West's most aggressive circles." (11 Sep 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #179, 16 Sep 81, pp. CC4-5)

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UN Debate

(Excerpt) The emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia, convened at the request of the African states, ended today at the UN headquarters on the East River. Delegates from more than 100 countries participated in it. O. A. Troyanovskiy, Permanent Soviet representative at the UN, described the existing South African regime as a direct threat to peace. (15 Sep 81, p.5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #182, 21 Sep 81, p. CC10)

Humanitarian Aid

(Excerpt) The executive committee of the USSR Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has decided to aid the Namibian refugees on Angolan territory. (15 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #182, 21 Sep 81, p. J3)

Soviet Position

(Excerpt) The Soviet Union has always advocated Africa's complete liberation from colonialism and racism. And its position on the Namibian problem has always been clear-cut and precise, the illegal occupation of the UN trust territory must stop and power must pass to its people who for two decades, under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), have been waging a heroic struggle for freedom. (17 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #185, 24 Sep 81, p. J3)

Republic of South Africa

Incursion Into Angola

[See citations under Angola heading for Pravda reporting on South Africa's military action against SWAPO installations.]

Demonstration in London

(Excerpt) A mass demonstration against the death sentence verdicts handed down to three freedom fighters waging a struggle against apartheid in South Africa took place in front of the South African embassy in London. Among the demonstrators was Yusuf Dadoo, Chairman of the South African Communist Party. (23 Aug 81, p. 1)

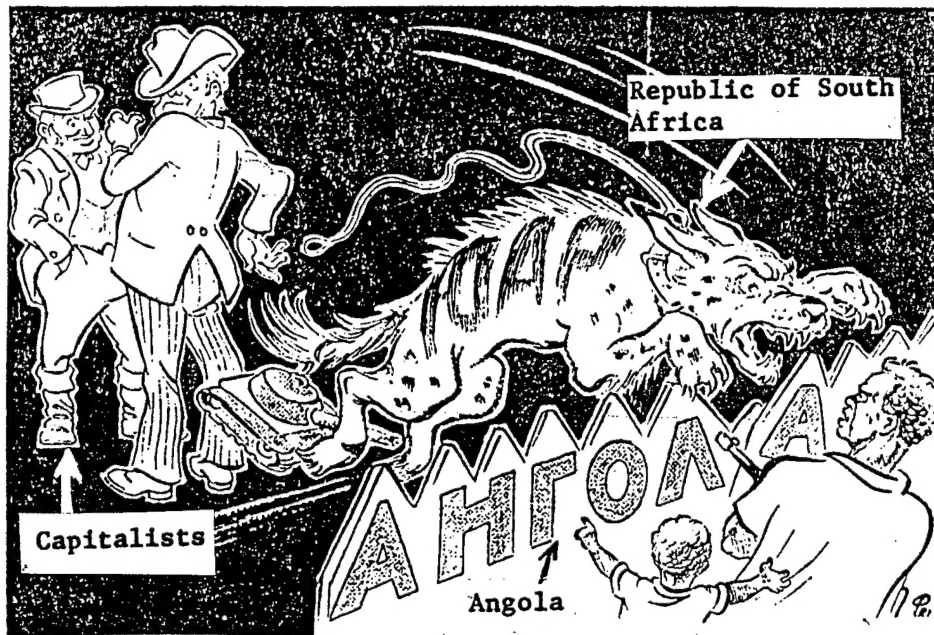
ANC Members Found Guilty

(Excerpt) O. Tambo, President of the African National Congress (ANC), referring to the death sentence handed down to three ANC activists--A. Tsotsobi, I. Shabango, and D. Moize--by the racist court in Pretoria, declared that this was typical of the inhuman apartheid system and a gross violation of human rights. (24 Aug 81, p. 5)

Political Situation in South Africa

[In a long article entitled, "The Blind Alleys of Apartheid," V. Molyev reports on the current unrest in the Republic of South Africa, drawing heavily on the historical origins of the apartheid system and makes many references to South Africa's political and economic dependence on the West. He also makes passing references to the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party, and liberal groups' activities, peaceful and violent, against apartheid. (25 Aug 81, p. 4)]

Western Collusion With South Africa



(28 Aug 81, p. 5)

UN Condemns ANC Sentences

(Excerpt) Kurt Waldheim, General Secretary of the United Nations, expressed concern over the death sentences meted out to three African National Congress members by the Republic of South Africa's judicial system. (28 Aug 81, p. 1)

South African Communist Delegation in Portugal

(Summary) A mass meeting held in honor of the visiting delegation of the South African Communist Party, headed by Yusuf Mohammad Dadoo, was arranged by the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party in the city of Aljandra. Speaking at the meeting, Y. Dadoo angrily condemned Pretoria's armed aggression against sovereign Angola. (14 Sep 81, p. 4)

US Support for South African Aggression



(16 Sep 81, p. 5)

Reunion

Printers' Strike

(Excerpt) Striking printers on the island of Reunion won an overwhelming victory with the promise from the employers to permit a new labor agreement that includes higher pay. (1 Sep 81, p. 1)

Sao Tome and Principe

New Ambassador

(Excerpt) The USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Petr N. Yevsyukov as USSR ambassador to the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. (29 Aug 81, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #173, 8 Sep 81, p. J6)

Exchange of Cables

(Excerpt) L. I. Brezhnev sent a cable to Manuel Pinto da Costa, Chairman of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe and President of that country, extending congratulations on the occasion of Sao Tome's sixth anniversary of independence. In a reply telegram, President Costa expressed his appreciation. (8 Sep 81, p. 2)

Delegation Departs USSR

(Excerpt) A delegation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe (MLSTP) headed by T. Dias da Costa, Secretary of the MLSTP Coordinating Council Politburo, visited the Soviet Union from 29 August through 13 September in accordance with the plan for interparty relations between The Soviet Communist Party and the MLSTP.]President Pinto da Costa arrived in Moscow on 22 September for a vacation.] (15 Sep 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #182, 21 Sep 81, p. J3)

Delegation on Soviet Peace Initiatives

(Text) The National People's Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (DRSTP) considers the address of the USSR Supreme Soviet "to the parliaments and peoples of the world" as one of the most important initiatives of recent times. It is directed at preventing war and removing the threat of mass annihilation hanging over the countries and peoples of the world, according to the DRSTP's Parliament. (20 Sep 81, p. 1)

Senegal

New Soviet Ambassador

[See citation under Gambia for 5 Sep 81]

Tanzania

Tanzanian Economic Development

[Pravda Special Correspondant A. Serbin discusses the socialist transformation of Tanzania's economy and the evolution of its anti-imperialist foreign policy. The article is mostly descriptive and historical. (5 Sep 81, p. 4).]

Zaire

Parliamentarian Delegation Departs

(Excerpt) A delegation from the Republic of Zaire Legislative Council headed by N. A'Dokpe Lingo, departed from the Soviet Union after completing an official visit. (22 Aug 81, p. 4)

Unprovoked Attack

(Excerpt) The South African racists undertook an unprovoked military attack against Zambia. According to the Zambian news service, South African military units, supported by air strikes, attacked the western province of Sesheke. (12 Sep 81, p. 5)

Zimbabwe

Economic Improvement

(Excerpt) The value of the national product of the Republic of Zimbabwe increased 13.9 percent in 1980. (29 Aug 81, p. 1)

Government Crackdown

(Summary) Prime Minister Mugabe, in a speech at Uzumba, said that activities that threatened to destabilize the government would be suppressed, especially the antigovernment actions perpetrated by leaders of the former, racist Smith regime. (29 Aug 81, p. J)